

## S. Africa content with Israeli military ties

TEL AVIV (R) — South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said Sunday there was no need for Israel to lift restrictions on military cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Botha is accompanying President F.W. de Klerk, who arrived Sunday for the first visit to Israel by a South African head of state in 16 years. "We have no intention to discuss any military matters. There is no reason for it, no reason whatsoever," Mr. Botha told reporters after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy. "The position is well known since 1987. No new contracts have been signed. There is no need for new contracts to sign now or in the future." There have been recurring media reports of secret cooperation between Israel and South Africa, especially in nuclear and missile technology. Israel has denied them. In 1987 Israel followed most Western countries in imposing military, cultural, and economic sanctions to press for abolition of apartheid. It said it would not sign new military contracts with South Africa but would honour existing ones. Last July, Israel lifted all but military sanctions in response to Mr. De Klerk's step-by-step reforms to give South Africa's black majority a share in running the country.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، «الرأي»

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## Brotherhood sends petition to Masri

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Taher Masri calling on him to give newspapers "freedom of expression and to allow writers to express their views in a healthy and democratic atmosphere and to allow opposition to use peaceful means in expressing their views in the media and public rallies." It called on the government to allow publishing Al Rahat newspaper, the mouthpiece of the movement, in Jordan. The memo said that the Brotherhood's opposition to the government stems from our keenness on the interests of our homeland and nation, and it is an opposition by democratic means and a stabilizing factor in such circumstances.

## U.S. ambassador returns to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Roger G. Harrison, returned to Amman Sunday after receiving medical treatment as a result of a car accident outside of Jerusalem on Oct. 28. Mr. Harrison is expected to make a full recovery and will resume his duties after a period of rest at home, according to a press release issued by the American embassy here.

## King Fahd names new air chief

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd named Lieutenant-General Majed Ben Talhah Al Utaihi as air force commander Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency said. Gen. Ben Utaihi replaces Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, commander of joint forces in the Gulf war, who stepped down in late September. No official reason has been given for the departure of Prince Khaled, son of Defence Minister Prince Sultan, but diplomats in the kingdom said he was wanted to pursue business interests.

## All U.S. army gear out of S. Arabia soon

BAHRAIN (AP) — With the exception of nearly a quarter of a million tons of ammunition, all American military equipment deployed in Saudi Arabia for the Gulf war will be out of the kingdom by Dec. 15, a U.S. military spokesman said Sunday. Major Charles Hayes, a spokesman for the U.S. military's joint information bureau in Dhahran, added that the ammunition would be shipped back by April of next year. The United States has signed agreements with Kuwait and Bahrain to pre-position weapons as part of a security pact, and plans others with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council such as Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. But so far, Saudi Arabia has not appeared willing to allow pre-positioned equipment on its soil.

## Tonga king visits Christian holy sites

LOD (AP) — King Taufa'ahua Tupou IV of Tonga arrived Sunday on a three-day visit to Christian holy sites on the Jordan River. "Tonga has very good and friendly relations with Israel but also with the Arabs. We do not make discrimination," the king told reporters at Ben Gurion international airport. The king will also meet with Israeli President Chaim Herzog during his stay. He is accompanied by his wife, Queen Halacsalu Mata'aho. Mr. Herzog visited Tonga, a chain of 169 islands in the South Pacific, five years ago. The king will also travel to Italy to watch Tonga's national soccer team play the Italians.

## Correction

Due to an inadvertent error, the Jordan Times, in its Nov. 10 issue, quoted Prime Minister Taher Masri as saying that Washington could be the best venue for holding Arab-Israeli multilateral talks. The prime minister had actually said that Washington could be the best venue for Arab-Israeli bilateral talks and that Jordan supports the idea of holding the multilateral talks very soon. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

## Palestinian delegates returning home get tumultuous welcome

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian peace negotiators returned to a jubilant welcome in the occupied territories Sunday and told hundreds of supporters waving olive branches that a new era has begun in the Middle East.

The Palestinian leaders announced they would form political committees to serve as the vanguard for a Palestinian government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Nothing can stop the Palestinians' march to freedom," Faissal Husseini, head of the delegation's advisory committee, later said in a rare appearance on Israel Television. He spoke in Hebrew. Mr. Husseini also suggested that the Palestinians would halt the stone-throwing attacks against troops and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories that have been a key element of the four-year Palestinian uprising. "Until now, the intifada was with stones. Now, there is an intifada with olive branches. Now, if you want it, if the Israelis want it, the intifada can come with a new face, Mr. Husseini told Israel army radio.

## Hizbollah says no role in AUB bomb

BRITAIN, Lebanon (AP) — The leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah said Sunday the bombing of the American University of Beirut (AUB) was staged to frame his group. "The whole world knows that this university has been within Hizbollah's reach for so many years if we wanted to attack it," Sheikh Abbas Musawi told a mass rally in Beirut in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. "Those who staged this cowardly act aimed at pushing Hizbollah into a corner where it would be framed as the culprit," Sheikh Musawi said. The U.S.-affiliated university's administration building, clock tower and library were blown up by a car bomb explosion Friday. One person was killed and eight wounded. Damage was estimated at \$125 million. No group has claimed responsibility. But the attack followed threats by pro-Iranian factions to strike at American interests.

returned to the West Bank from Jordan via the King Hussein Bridge.

The delegates immediately began preparing for the next stage of the conference face-to-face bargaining with Israel over their demands for independence.

The venue has not been fixed but delegates expect talks to start within two weeks.

U.S. diplomats eased the delegates' passage through Israeli security checks at the bridge crossing from Jordan.

Mr. Husseini leaned out of a bus window and told reporters that a "new era" had begun.

"Palestinian people will have a state next to the state of Israel, and together we will make a new future in the Middle East," he said.

Delegate Saeb Erekat added: "One day when I come back to this bridge I hope I will find a Palestinian official greeting me."

When the two buses reached the town of Jericho near the bridge, hundreds of residents reached through the windows to shake the hands of their delegates and hand them olive branches. The crowd chanted "Palestine is Arab" and "we want peace," and motorists honked their horns in joy.

Mr. Erekat, who lives in Jericho, was carried on the shoulders of admirers through the marketplace.

The army barred Palestinians from elsewhere in the occupied territories from reaching Jericho and joining the celebration. Army jeeps accompanied the delegation's buses from the bridge to Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, the delegates spoke before some 2,000 supporters at the Hakawati Theatre.

Young men carried Mr. Husseini on their shoulders into the theatre singing "Biladi, Biladi," the anthem of Palestinian nationalism.

At the height of the intifada, moderate leaders like Mr. Husseini were sometimes criticised by young activists, who turned to more hardline factions like the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas. But the Madrid conference seems to have given the moderates the backing of most people in the occupied territories.

Delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi's nine-year-old daughter Zeinah, clutching a teddy bear and an olive branch, (Continued on page 5)

## 'Shamir rejected expulsion of Palestinians while in Madrid'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A left-wing legislator said Sunday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir prevented the expulsion of five Palestinian activists on the first day of the Madrid peace conference. Legislator Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement said Defence Minister Moshe Arens wanted to issue an order Oct. 30 to expel five Palestinians, but other officials insisted he consult Mr. Shamir at the peace talks.

The proposal came after an attack on a settler bus in the occupied West Bank two days earlier in which the bus driver and a settler woman were killed. A hardline Palestinian group later took responsibility for the attack.

When the proposal was put before Mr. Shamir in Madrid he immediately rejected it, Mr. Zucker added. "I sent a letter to Shamir saying he should order his cabinet ministers to be sensitive and cautious with the steps they are taking... in order not to undermine the political effort by measures such as this," Mr. Zucker told the Associated Press.

"I added that his rejection of the proposal was a good example of how past measures should not be automatically adopted to new circumstances," Mr. Zucker said.

The daily Maariv said the five slated for expulsion were Palestinians from the West Bank.

Both the prime ministry and defence ministry declined comment on Mr. Zucker's report.

## Increased support for land for peace

Also Sunday, the daily Al Hamishmar published a poll that found that 74 per cent of Israelis are willing to trade land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace, and 31 per cent are willing to make similar concessions on the Golan Heights.

The poll, carried out by the Institute for Regional Research, questioned 80,766 Israelis at their homes Oct. 6-20. The margin of error was less than half a per cent.



CROWN PRINCE MEETS ARCHBISHOP: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives the archbishop of the Australian city of Sydney, Dr. Ronald Robinson, for a review of the problems of the Middle East. Prince Hassan also discussed with the guest the problems facing Jordan and the humanitarian aid Jordan needs to alleviate the sufferings and concerns of the returnees who streamed into the country during the Gulf crisis. The Crown Prince also discussed with Dr. Robinson the importance of inter-faith dialogue. The meeting was attended by Australian Ambassador to Jordan Bob Bowker (Petra photo)

## Chechens defiant against Yeltsin

GROZNY, the Soviet Union (AP) — Nationalists in the secessionist Chechen-Ingush region blocked rail and air routes into their southern Russian territory Sunday, fearing troops will try to enforce Boris Yeltsin's emergency rule.

Meanwhile, protesters reportedly were gathering in the capital's Freedom Square — one week after the mostly Muslim region declared independence from the Russian Republic.

Mr. Yeltsin says he will not allow his federation, home to scores of ethnic groups, to disintegrate. He decreed the imposition of emergency rule, beginning Saturday, which banned rallies, ordered weapons impounded and took over Chechen-Ingushetia's government for one month.

In Moscow, Russian legislators planned a special session Sunday to endorse President Yeltsin's emergency rule in the region of 1.3 million people. But the decree was protested by Mr. Yeltsin's interior minister in the territory, Chechen native Vakha Ibragimov, who resigned in disagreement, government-run Russia Rossiya Radio reported.

Mr. Yeltsin's hand-picked interim administrator, Akhmad Arsanov, reportedly said Saturday the emergency should be lifted.

The radio said the defection decreased chances that troops would enforce Mr. Yeltsin's decree. That could leave the Rus-

(Continued on page 5)

## Maxwell laid to rest; investigations continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Robert Maxwell, a Polish refugee who built a global publishing empire, was buried Sunday in occupied Jerusalem.

The publisher of London's Daily Mirror and the New York daily news was buried in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives in occupied Jerusalem in the kind of funeral usually reserved for statesmen, enlivened by President Chaim Herzog as "a mighty man... of almost mythological stature."

The eulogies reflected the strong emotions aroused by the booming, iron-willed British media magnate, his drift away from Judaism and his subsequent return to the faith.

Mr. Maxwell was last seen alive on his yacht off the Canary Islands early Tuesday. His body was recovered from the water that evening. Spanish authorities said preliminary autopsy results showed he died of natural causes before falling into the sea. He was 68.

A Tenerife judge investigating the death has ordered the crew of the newspaper magnate's yacht not to leave the Canary Islands pending further inquiries, a family lawyer said.

The death of Mr. Maxwell, plagued by debts and reports of links with the Israeli secret ser-

## Iran-Qatar water pipeline planned

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran agreed Sunday to supply fresh water to the Gulf state of Qatar via a 1,800-kilometre pipeline, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said the agreement was signed at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Tehran by Qatar's Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani. Four other agreements for cooperation in education, labour, air transportation and trade were also signed, the radio said. It said Sheikh Khalifa was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Vice President Hassan Habibi. The radio said in a commentary that talks on the water project began two months ago. It said: "This project can not only provide the water for Qatar, but for the rest of the southern and Arab countries of the Gulf." A joint statement released simultaneously in Tehran and Doha condemned Israel's "incursionist policies" and called for regional countries to maintain Gulf security, the radio said. It also called for more cooperation between Iran and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

## Kaddoumi in Cairo; meeting with Saud possible

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) foreign affairs chief Fawzi Kaddoumi arrived in Cairo Sunday and called on Washington to honour a promise to force Israel to stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"The United States has to prove its goodwill... it promised to exert pressure on Israel to stop building settlements once and for all," said Mr. Kaddoumi. He did not say when or where Washington made such a promise.

Washington has called Jewish settlements in the occupied territories an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Kaddoumi also called on Washington to "show its appreciation for the flexible stand" the PLO had taken to facilitate the convening of the Middle East peace conference.

He did not elaborate but the PLO has urged Washington to resume contacts which were severed when the PLO failed to condemn a foiled raid on Israel last year by a hardline Palestinian faction.

Palestinian sources also said "quiet efforts" were underway to persuade the United States to reopen the PLO's information office in Washington.

Mr. Kaddoumi was due to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during his visit to discuss the second phase of the peace process and diplomats said he might also hold talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Prince Saud arrived in Cairo earlier on Sunday to attend talks Monday with his counterparts from Egypt, Syria and the five other Gulf Arab states on regional security arrangements.

## Syrian front's stand

Syria's ruling coalition accused Israel of trying to sabotage the Arab-Israeli peace talks which ended in Madrid last Monday, officials said Sunday.

A meeting of the National

(Continued on page 5)

## Government promises to study problems faced by industries over new tax, collection

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with an angry reaction by Jordanian industrialists who rose up in arms against the recent imposition of a new consumer tax, the government Sunday appeared to have adopted a conciliatory stand with a promise to study and address their problems.

"I do not know on what basis they are complaining," said Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, adding that he had not seen a petition submitted to Prime Minister Taher Masri by the industrialists.

"But we are ready to review their problems and consider appropriate action," he told the Jordan Times, adding that he was meeting with a representative group of Jordanian industrialists on Wednesday.

The finance minister reiterated that the government's policy of encouraging exports and developing local industries remained unchanged.

Mr. Jaradneh also said the government was considering additional incentives to export-oriented industries. He did not elaborate.

Jordanian industrialists have gone public with their opposition not only to the 10 per cent consumer tax (value added tax — VAT) and a government-proposed procedure to collect the tax but also a decrease in customs duties on a series of imported products classified as "essential."

Although no official would confirm it, it is widely believed that the imposition of consumer tax is part of an agreement that the government has reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to restructure the Kingdom's economy.

Scarce details are available on the discussions between the government and the IMF, but the main thrust of any related measure will be to reduce the fiscal budget deficit by increasing revenues and cutting down govern-

ment expenditure. No figures are available yet on the amount the government expects to raise as consumer tax.

Speaker after speaker at a meeting at the Amman Chamber of Industry building on Saturday let off angry outbursts over the VAT and argued that any such increases in prices for the consumer were unacceptable given the rising cost of living in the Kingdom.

The importance and seriousness with which the industrialists view the situation were evident in the words of Ahmad Ghneim, who spoke on behalf of clearance and follow-up agents in Jordan.

"If the Chamber of Industry cannot address and find a solution to the problem," said Mr. Ghneim, "we might as well pack up and go home."

Particularly disturbing to manufacturers of low-priced consumer products such as chocolates and biscuits was


the reduction in customs duties on similar imported products. Such reduction, they argued, will clear the way for the imported product to dominate the market at the expense of the local industries.

Inflaming the passions over what many industrialists see as a question of their existence and serious doubts on a free market economy in Jordan were several parliament members.

Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant, a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood which opposes the government's decision to attend peace talks with Israel, contended in a speech to the gathering that the new tax was "a measure imposed by the IMF to open the Arab markets for Israeli products."

Other deputies attending the meeting included leftists Fakhr Kassar, Husni Shihab and Mansour Murad. Organisers of the meeting said

(Continued on page 5)



## ARAB BANK

### Announces the opening of a new office in

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SHARJAH, AMMAN  
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## Journalists criticised for speaking to Israeli media at peace conference

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A prominent Jordanian journalist has been expelled from the Jordanian Writers' Federation (JWF) for allowing himself to be interviewed by the Israeli media during the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid last week.

Another columnist, coming under fire for the same charges, announced Sunday that he was stopping his column until further notice.

Sultan Hattab, a columnist at the Amman-based daily Al Ra'i and the former chief editor of Sawt Al Shabab, and Tawfiq Abu Bakr of Al Dastour had also come under criticism from the Jordanian Writers' Society, of which they are not members.

The decision to expel Mr. Hattab was taken Sunday, according to the deputy chief of the JWF, Dihadh Rifa'i.

"Mr. Hattab's membership has been withdrawn and he is no longer a member of the federation as of Sunday," Mr. Rifa'i was quoted as saying. "This is a moral punishment for Mr. Hattab for his contacts with Israel," he told the Associated Press.

What remained unclear was whether Mr. Hattab was indeed a member of the federation, which had faded into the background after the Jordanian Writers' Society reemerged as part of the democratisation process under way in Jordan.

The "federation was set up as an alternative to the 'society' in 1988 after the then government headed by Zaid Rifa'i suspended the latter, which was perceived to be dominated by leftist writers.

The society was revived in early 1990 when the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran lifted the suspension. Lost in the bargain was the influence exerted by the JWF. Apparently, Mr. Hattab was considered a member by the JWF since he did not become a member of the revived Jordanian Writers' Society.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Mr. Hattab declined direct comment on the JWF's decision. "I would not like to make any comment now," he said. However, he added, "I am continuing my columns in Al Ra'i and I can defend myself." Mr. Hattab's daily column has been absent from the newspaper over the past two weeks.

Information Minister Mahoud Al Sharif said the ministry had no plan whatsoever to interfere in the matter, although he described it as "political" in nature.

"It is an independent union and it is free to make its own decisions on its laws and procedures," Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times.

"The Ministry of Information has nothing to do with it and does not plan to interfere in the matter," Mr. Sharif said.

Mr. Hattab had complained that he was not a member of the JWF. "If that is indeed the case, I hope the federation has taken into consideration the proper procedures," the minister said.

The controversy started when Mr. Hattab, who was among the Jordanian media team attending the Madrid conference, was interviewed by Israeli Television.

The interview was seen by many Jordanian writers, both leftist and rightist, as violating the code of conduct which calls for shunning all contacts with the Israeli media.

The interviews given by Mr. Hattab as well as Mr. Abu Bakr fuelled the emotions of those who reject the U.S.-led peace process.

Opposition groups argue that Israel is only seeking normalisation of relations with the Arab states without properly addressing the Palestinian problem and as such any action seen as normalised relations with the Jewish state should be avoided.

Many others say it is too early for any interaction between the Jordanian and Israeli media since the Jewish state continues to occupy Arab land and the peace process, which got off in Madrid, has a long way to go before an acceptable solution to the core conflict is reached.

Another school of thought, in the minority argues that Jordanians should take advantage of any access to the Israeli media and address the Israeli people and talk about the unjust and oppressive policies of their government.

Mr. Abu Bakr, meanwhile, announced that he was suspending writing for Al Dastour as of Sunday. In a column titled "Clarification and Apology," Mr. Abu Bakr said he was caught in a situation where he could not refuse questions from the Israeli media among the multitude of media channels which were present in Madrid.

Mr. Abu Bakr, a Palestinian journalist, endorsed the view that any normalisation of cultural relations with Israel was premature.

Mr. Hattab was quoted as saying by the AP that his objective in giving the interview to Israeli Television was "to serve the Jordanian strategic goal and to explain to the Israeli masses the official position of the Kingdom."

"I did not do anything wrong," he said. "I neither praised Israel nor called for establishing bilateral relations with Israel."

Hashem Kreizat president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), who was also in Madrid for the conference, denied reports that the JPA was considering expelling Mr. Hattab.

"No such measure is being considered," Mr. Kreizat, who is also chief editor of Sawt Al Shabab, told the Jordan Times.

The theme that media interaction could be seen as part of normalisation of cultural relations was raised by the Jordanian Writers' Society headed by Fakhri Kassar, a columnist and member of the Lower House of Parliament.

"We were surprised at seeing two Jordanian writers on the Israeli screen," said a statement issued by the society last week.

"We also noticed that the Zionist media correspondents had deliberately sought to lure many Arabs to talk to their media channels, but many would not be drawn into that trap which was meant to normalise cultural relations."

The statement "condemned those involved" and warned against "any normalisation of cultural relations with the Zionists and we consider it to be a danger to our national identity."

It said the "erosion of the Zionist culture and thinking is based on rejecting other cultures and thinking. So does the Israeli strategy, which is based on expansion and the denial of the Palestinian existence."

"It is impossible to normalise relations with the Zionist culture and thinking since it would amount to reconciliation with a racist regime, which looks at other races condescendingly," the statement added.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is greeted by a patient at a family planning centre. Princess Basma Sunday toured various centres and inspected the services they provide (Petra photo)

## Princess tours family planning clinics

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday met the Jordan Family Planning Society (JFPS) president and society officials and discussed means of promoting family planning services in Jordan.

JFPS President Anwar Hadid briefed the princess on the society's programmes and activities over the coming five years.

Mr. Hadid said that the society's services are offered through eight clinics, three of which are located in Amman. The others are in Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, Salt and Aqaba in addition to mobile clinics in remote villages and rural and badia areas of Jordan.

Mr. Hadid told Princess Basma that the society has now finalised its strategy through 1995. The strategy entails family planning services at the clinics plus two new clinics to be set up every year in the coming four years.

Princess Basma visited the society's clinics at Ashrafieh and Husseini neighbourhoods in Amman and inspected their different sections. The princess also met some of the ladies visiting the clinics and inquired about services they were receiving.

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## Diplomats say Saudi ambassador to Jordan to return next week

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammad Fahd Al Isa will be returning within days to Jordan as Riyadh's anger against pro-Iraqi Arab parties gradually abates, Arab diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be named, attributed the development to the necessary coordination among Arabs involved in the peacemaking process with Israel. But they cautioned that the Amman-Riyadh relationship is not likely to be warm for a long time.

Initiated at the U.S.-organised Middle East conference in Madrid, the process involves Jordan as a front party negotiator with Israel, and Saudi Arabia as an observer and key player behind the scenes.

Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yemen, Sudan and Tunisia were perceived to have thrown in their lot with Iraq after President Saddam Hussein sent his forces sweeping through Kuwait in August 1990.

Mr. Hadid told Princess Basma that the society has now finalised its strategy through 1995. The strategy entails family planning services at the clinics plus two new clinics to be set up every year in the coming four years.

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That cost Jordan about \$400 million it used to get annually in aid from Saudi Arabia as well as substantial quantities of petroleum products on easy credit terms. It also brought travel restrictions on Jordanians and a ban on Jordanian vehicles crossing the common border.

Riyadh also expelled some diplomats from the Jordanian embassy, ordering that staff of Jordanian, Iraqi and Yemeni embassies be limited to three, amidst allegations that the diplomatic staffs were spying on strategic locations for Iraq.

Chief diplomats were allowed to stay, but Jordanian Ambassador Nasser Al Batayna, like others who did not slip out quietly, remained.

Recently, the edge of sharpness in Saudi editorial criticism of Jordan has eased, and the kingdom lifted the ban on the Jordanian vehicles transits in October.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal also went to

Damascus for a meeting with Arab counterparts going to Madrid. That represented the first Saudi official encounter with representatives of Jordan and the PLO since the Gulf crisis.

Last month, the PLO was allowed for the first time since the crisis to transfer \$12 million in taxes that it collects from some 250,000 Palestinians working in the kingdom.

Western diplomatic sources, meanwhile, also alluded to a recent incident that may help improve the relations. In early October, the Jordanian security responded favourably to a request from the Saudi interior minister to arrest and extradite a prominent Saudi national known as Sheikh Mohammad Al Fassi, who allegedly was involved in stirring up sentiment against the Riyadh government.

Mr. Fassi's lawyer in the United States, where he has residence, and diplomatic sources say he may be charged with treason.

## Artist uses intifada as theme to depict Palestinian nationalism

By Ica Wahbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intifada, the Palestinian uprising, represents different things for different people. For some, it is a way to express their political views. For some it is a means to vent their anger and frustration at the Israeli occupation of almost a quarter of a century.

For artist Ibrahim Al Shalaby, the intifada provides a theme for his canvases which depict an upsurge in Palestinian nationalism and pride.

By using images of the intifada and the mono print and collage or mixed media and collage techniques, the artist depicts the struggle of Palestinian youth against the occupier. The colours, often blood-red or dark, complement the move and the strokes that create an inner sensation of movement, of tormented souls trying to assert a denied identity.

A recurrent element is that of hands gripping stones, in various stages of throwing. Another leit motif is that of Palestinian embroidery, either painted or actual stripes of cross stitched cloth, constituting either the frame or the centralpiece of many a canvas.

Kuffiyeh-wrapped youth are rarely missing from a painting. What might differ is their attitude or their number. At times, a singular figure animates the frame: the youth is either picking up a stone — like in The Gate to Jerusalem, represented by a stylised black paint arch and surrounded by a splash of colours (hope?), — or throwing it — like in The Target, a very impressive piece, divided in several planes, with the central one taken by a man with the well-known headdress wrapped around, and a sling in his hands aimed at a "target": a poster of a rifle with fingers poised to pull the trigger.

Calligraphy, mostly of verses from Arab poetry or the Koran, is strongly represented in almost every canvas. The writing is usually reinforcing the message conveyed by the painting and is omnipresent.

An interesting symbolism is carried by the eagle. This powerful bird is alternately representing the "awakening" of a Palestinian entity or the enemy: two doves (the victims) are savagely gripped in its talons and blood is dripping.

Not all of Mr. Shalaby's paintings, however, represent lost hope. The artist allows the prospect of a better future to pervade in at least one of his works.

Behind an enclosure of barbed wire, a hopeful woman with both hands raised looks at the village in the distance determined to return, convinced of a final victory and justice.

In the words of the artist who presented his works, "As long as there is (exists) a Palestinian baby, the Palestinian flag will fly high," embodying the resilience of a people with hopes, aspirations, traditions, entity unaffected by vicissitudes and years of denial.

Mr. Arabi appealed to all concerned authorities and farmers to help conserve agricultural resources through proper use and in a manner that would not harm the interests of the future generations.

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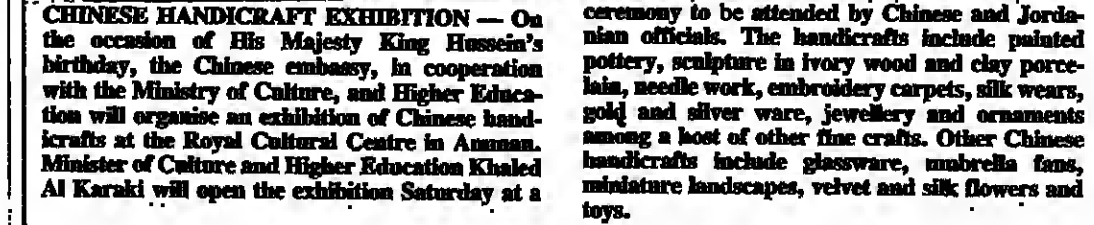
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CHINESE HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Chinese embassy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, and Higher Education will organise an exhibition of Chinese handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. Minister of Culture and Higher Education Khaleel Al Karaki will open the exhibition Saturday at a ceremony to be attended by Chinese and Jordanian officials. The handicrafts include painted pottery, sculpture in ivory wood and clay, porcelain, needle work, embroidery, silk, wear, gold and silver ware, jewellery and ornaments among a host of other fine crafts. Other Chinese handicrafts include glassware, umbrellas, fans, miniature landscapes, velvet and silk flowers and toys.



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## After the conference

THERE ARE reasonable grounds for feeling upbeat about the results of the Madrid peace conference. For starters, the international climate is conducive for conflict resolution. The recent peace accord on Cambodia is only the latest example of this new international order. Secondly, the prestige and reputation of Washington is on the line after President George Bush and his administration has made it a point to broker this latest peace initiative to resolve the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict in all its dimensions. With the U.S. presidential elections only months away, President Bush needs a victory in his efforts to settle the Middle East conflict, especially in the wake of the dramatic decline in his national popularity in recent weeks. The U.S. economy is anything but picking up as once thought and the president cannot afford a defeat over the Madrid party, especially after investing heavily in it. Thirdly, the Arab parties have grown sophisticated and mature in playing out the game of negotiations with Israel. Gone are the days when the Arab countries can be blamed for derailing the resolution of the Palestinian case and the disputes that ensued thereon on the Arab-Israeli level. There is a general recognition now in the Arab World that their aspirations and objectives cannot be achieved in one giant leap but rather through a process that is durable and well grounded. In this vein, the art of negotiation has been accepted and acknowledged as an essential part of the Arab side. Witness in this regard the flexibility of the Palestinian side on the formal role of the PLO and the overall Arab consent not to spell out in advance all the fine terms and objectives of the peace talks. Another example of this new Arab perspective is their concession not to make irrevocable links between the various stages and topics of the talks even though there is still a genuine conviction in concluding a comprehensive peace treaty with Israel that is all encompassing in its contents and aspects.

In this regard, one cannot ignore the metamorphosis in the Israeli body politic. Only a few weeks ago, the bulk of the Israeli public opinion was sceptical about the viability of the peace efforts and less resigned to make any meaningful concessions for their promotion. All of a sudden the fervor of the prospects of peace have hit the hearts and minds of many Israelis and many tens of thousands of them took to the streets of Tel Aviv recently in support of the Madrid peace party. One can presume therefore that the mainstream Israeli perspective is in favour of giving peace a chance as Israelis are also sick and tired of seemingly permanent conditions of tension and armed conflicts in the region. Given a chance between Arab lands or peace, many Israelis would naturally opt for the latter.

Yet there are also logical basis for pessimism. It is axiomatic that for any negotiations between belligerents to come to fruition, there must be at least a semblance of balance in their bargaining powers. Admittedly, the Arabs' bargaining chips have diminished in recent months to an all time low. Neither the Arab state of affairs nor the disappearance of the Soviet bloc from the international power politics would augur well for the Arab side. Even the most recent revelation that Israel possesses no less than three hundred nuclear bombs cannot but render the Arab bargaining position that much more vulnerable. In the logic of things, the Arab parties would be expected to make more and more concessions as a reflection of their diminished power regionally and internationally. This state of affairs prompted many observers to conclude that the timing of the peace talks is not favourable to the Arab side and is bound to be reflected negatively as the process of negotiations continue in the course of the months ahead.

On balance, however, the least that could emerge from the impending negotiations is some kind of respite for the Arab side as well. The Arab World needs time to heal the wounds and pick up the pieces. The international climate may change just as abruptly as it had in the past few months. Not that the Arab parties would forsake any genuine peace terms if the opportunity presented itself. On the contrary they should seize upon every window of opportunity to conclude an honourable peace treaty with Israel provided it is just and durable. But if the worse comes to the worst, and Israeli intransigence proved to be impregnable as ever, the peace process would create new conditions as it proceeds forward during which time the Arab strategic power may become augmented and the world scene rectified.

Our negotiations therefore have a formidable task ahead of them. They are entitled to our support and appreciation. By noting that the country and its people are solidly behind them would naturally boost their determination and skills to obtain for all of us a more peaceful era in which present and future generations can live with pride and satisfaction.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday called on Jordanians to give attention to the real requirements of democracy while also paying attention to the ongoing efforts to arrive at peace in the Middle East. The paper said national unity is bound to bolster the process of democracy and it is strengthened by social justice. The paper referred to the recent price hikes and said they caused disproportionate changes in the fabric of society, especially among limited and medium-income groups who have been suffering under the continued wave of soaring cost of living in the country. In the paper's view, the question of the cost of living was connected to the peace process because, it said, there can be no point in achieving a just and durable peace while the country is plagued by chronic issues like citizens being dismissed from their jobs for political reasons and soaring prices.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily voiced strong criticism of the government's recent measures of hiking prices of essential commodities. By doing so, the government has gone back on a promise it gave to Parliament never to increase prices without first consulting with Parliament, said Salah Abdul Samad. The writer said that the government could have waited for Parliament to reconvene for its regular session early next month to consult the deputies about its procedures. What is really surprising about the move, the writer said, is to see the government raising the prices of such basic commodities as cigarettes, tissue paper and sanitary tissue, considering that these items are non-essentials, and decreasing the prices of rare fruits, and nuts that only the very rich can buy. He said that the government failed to reduce the prices of such items as cooking oil or sardines, consumed by a majority of people in Jordan, thus forcing the limited-income groups to face continued waves of soaring prices as their income remains unchanged.

## The secret of the Palestinians' success in Madrid

By Daoud Kuttab

THERE is an almost universal consensus that the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference in Madrid scored clear success. From editorials in the world press to the private praise of U.S. officials, including Mr. Baker himself, there is agreement that the Palestinians came out the winners. Even Henry Kissinger, not known for a pro-Arab position, has said publicly that Palestinians did well in Madrid. What are the reasons of this success? And why were these pro-PLO Palestinians more successful than their own PLO leaders?

— They were new to the rest of the world:

The world knew all the speakers at the Madrid conference except the Palestinian speakers and spokespersons. No one was surprised at the Syrian position or the European position or the Egyptian position. They all repeated their well-known positions. The world even knew Arafat and it would have been difficult for the PLO leader to surprise them. The Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories was new. The world has known the Palestinians as stone throwers and have witnessed their popular resistance to the Israeli occupation. But as Edward Said, the Palestinian professor at Columbia University, always said, the world has not heard the Palestinian "narrative." Now a largely unknown group of Palestinians from the occupied territories who were approved by the PLO and whom the Israelis couldn't reject were relating that narrative. It was not surprising that the delegates to the conference as well as the rest of the world were listening very carefully to hear what the "people's delegation" had to say.

— They spoke a different language:

Not only did the Palestinians in Madrid speak English without too much of an accent, but what they said was also different. The Palestinian speeches read by Dr. Haidar Abdul

Shafi and the press statements made by Hanan Ashrawi were new. They were void of the usual rhetoric and ideology that has previously resounded official Palestinian statements. Issues were dealt with in a clear and unambiguous way. Israeli recognition was not conditional and neither were the Palestinian aspirations for statehood alongside Israel. The status of Palestinians under occupation was mentioned as facts rather than as part of an attempt to score propaganda points. Finally the Palestinian delegation addressed the Israeli people, praised the courage of Israeli peace supporters and tried to reach out to their enemies.

— They were united:

A qualitative change has taken place among Palestinian radicals and opposition groups. Palestinians are speaking in one tongue and without double talk. And instead of the usual incitement and threats, differences of opinion leading up to the conference and during it were expressed in a civilised manner. This change allowed the Palestinian delegates and spokespersons to speak on behalf of the majority of Palestinians rather than be guided by the lowest denominator of the people — a situation that has in the past allowed small groups to have a veto power over the wishes of the majority.

— They were both qualified and credible:

For far too long qualified Palestinians had no credibility among the Palestinian public and credible Palestinians were not qualified to speak and perform in an international parity. This was often the case with some PLO officials and with Palestinians in the occupied territories who had paid the political price of imprisonment and other forms of punishment by the Israelis but were unable to handle themselves in a press conference or in front of a hostile audience. The Palestinian delegation successful and creatively combined these two attributes. The delegates were

qualified, mostly well educated professionals, and had the support both of their own community as well as the PLO leadership in Tunis. The combination, for example, of Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi is one example. He is from a well-known family in Jerusalem whose father was a war hero in 1948 and who has spent many years in Israeli jails. She is an articulate Western-trained university professor who was quite involved in grassroots politics. Similarly, the combination between Dr. Abdul Shafi, a respected physician from Gaza, and Samah Kanaan, a hardened activist who spent 13 years in Israeli jails, worked very well. While Mr. Hussein and Mrs. Ashrawi had a special relationship with Mr. Baker, the latter two were the only Palestinians who met with President George Bush when he came to Madrid.

— They were proud despite their weakness:

Arguably the weakest delegation at the Madrid conference was the Palestinians. They were invited to the conference with a host of restrictions. They were forced to come to the conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. No PLO official was allowed to be on the delegation, no one from Jerusalem was to be allowed into the Royal Palace and they were told that if they said they were a PLO delegation, the Israelis would walk out. Palestinians had no state, no government, no army, and no institution. But they had a just cause and they were not ready to throw in the towel. They succeeded in turning their weakness into strength. Any special status given to them at the conference was interpreted as a victory. They received equal time with the rest, drove in motorcades, held their heads high and spoke about the only thing they know best — their own problem. Here was a group of Palestinians who were speaking for themselves, from their own experience with the human and personal passion that no one else could match. No wonder they quickly became the darlings of the international press. After all the world loves the underdog.

## Shamir's call to Palestinians — a licence to perpetuate genocide

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's excessive "humanity" expressed in his call to the Palestinian Arabs, in the Madrid conference: "...stop exposing your children to danger by sending them to throw bombs and stones at soldiers and civilians," did not startle or influence any of his audiences. Many people, especially well informed journalists and human rights activists, were overwhelmed and bewildered. Not because the call only implies racism, and dehumanisation of the Palestinian people, but because it implies demand from the international community to acquiesce his perpetuating his wrongs and crimes of killing more Palestinian children. Regardless of his racist insinuations — with connotations of cowardice and sub-human parents who send their children to throw bombs while they stay at home, as Israeli spokesmen declare — Mr. Shamir's call is a declaration of intent to continue his genocide against the Palestinian people's future — their children.

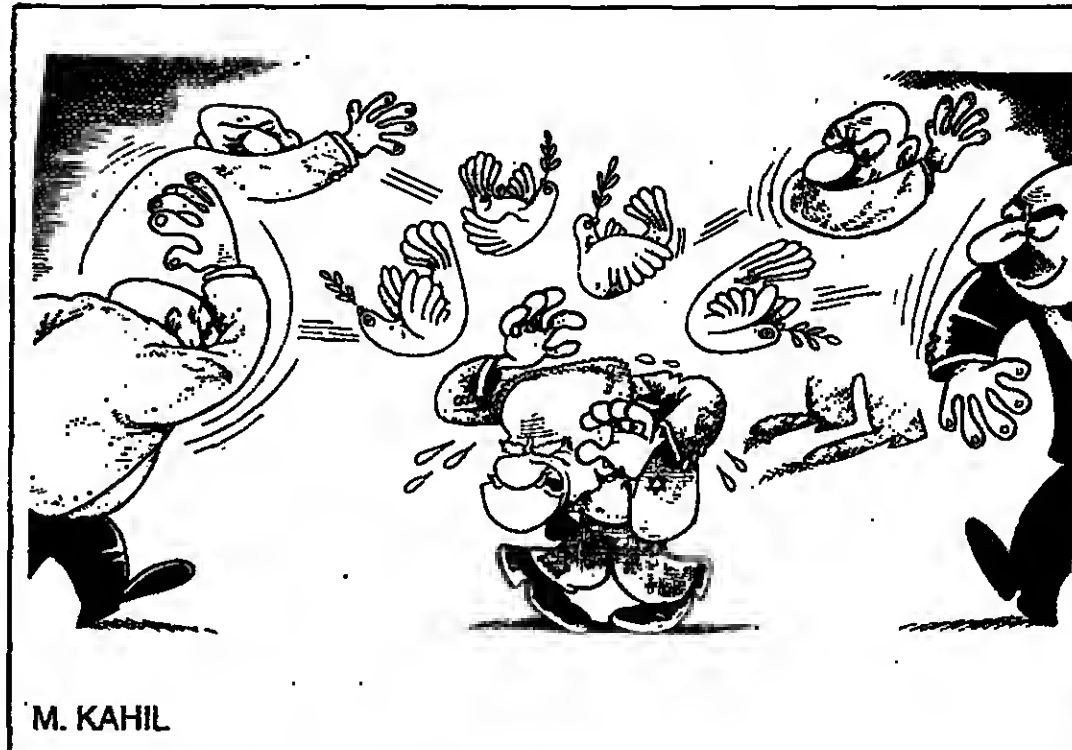
Mr. Shamir's accusation is a big lie. His, is a paradigm of lies and practices of the same regimes which victimised the Jews. To the disappointment of the killers of young children, a conference was held in Jerusalem in 1988, to study the dimensions of psychological effects of state oppression during the intifada; it was attended by prominent Israeli and Palestinian psychologists, psychoanalysts, sociologists and other academics. Dr. Youlanda Gempiel, a psychoanalyst and lecturer at Tel Aviv University found conclusions with regard to state oppression and terror in Europe during World War II similar to those of the Israeli occupation and oppression of young Palestinian children. Dr. Gempiel, concluded her lecture referring to Codalia Edward Sawin's answer to a question about how the mother permitted the Nazis to take her daughter to a concentration camp, portrayed in her literary work, "A Girl Alight is Searching for Fire." Codalia retorted: "the real question is not how the mother permitted them, but how the world permitted such a regime to exist and flourish and develop its power."

Dr. Bernard Sabilla, lecturer in sociology at Bethlehem University, noted that the Israelis did not notice or did not want to understand the "traumas and tragedies" that befall the Palestinians. "The reactions and frustrations of parents and grownups are automatically registered upon children who are 6, 7 or 8 and therefore at a loss as to how to deal with this imbalanced relationship between their parents and the soldiers... Children over the age of 8 or 9 start realising that they can act out against the other party to the conflict because they are at the age when they start internalising concepts such as "rights and justice," he said. "Children over 12, as Jean Piaget argues, can comprehend symbols and ideological dimensions: it is these children to whom we refer as 'Children of the Stones' in Palestinian society. We disagree with Israeli perceptions that grownups send them out to throw stones. They do it because they are an integral part of the society and they have internalised their side of the conflict," concludes Dr. Sabilla.

Zionist writer and Nobel prize laureate, Elie Wiesel calls upon peoples to change their perception of the holocaust: "We should not think of 6,000,000 victims as the holocaust because that becomes a statistic; we should think of one small child and of that child's death; that is the holocaust."

The real question is how the Jews everywhere had permitted the government and its prime minister to adhere to the policy of killing, maiming, breaking bones, gassing, blinding, crippling out one small child, as Elie Wiesel said, but scores of them, for the last four consecutive years.

This is not a subjective piece of propaganda as Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, did in Madrid. Rather it is an objective conclusion reached by different human rights organisations. It is enough, we believe, to cite part of a field study, singled out of many reports, published by many human rights associations, including Israeli, European and American, to prove the genocide committed by the Israeli government against Palestinian children. Mr. Shamir's call in Madrid exacerbates our fear that his purpose, by bringing his point before millions of people is to camouflage his predetermined intent to accelerate the genocide with an agreement, their cooperation was contagious for both Arabs and Israelis.



M. KAHIL

international acquiescence.

A field study, funded by the Ford Foundation, done by the American "Save the Children Organisation" and published by the Swedish twin organisation Radda Barnen, Swedish Save the Children, states: "Researchers for this report have documented indiscriminate beating, tear gas and shooting of children at home or just outside the house, playing in the street, sitting in the classroom or going to the store for groceries. Children were also beaten, tear-gassed, and shot for flashing V-for-Victory signs, chanting nationalist slogans, doodling Palestinian flags in school notebooks, hanging flags from poles, violating curfew, or participating in demonstrations, whether stone-throwing or not."

Most of the children killed by gunfire had been shot in the head or neck. Nearly a fifth of the children suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Twelve per cent were shot from behind. Almost all of the children shot dead were hit by directed — not random or ricochet — gunfire: only one child was killed by a ricocheting bullet. Of the estimated 50,000 to 60,000 injured children requiring medical treatment in the first two years of the intifada, an estimated 6,500 to 8,500 were wounded by

gunfire. According to a sample of the 822 child gunshot injury records collected in the first year, over half of the children, aged three to 15 years, had been shot in the upper body, including the head, or suffered multiple gunshot wounds. Fifteen per cent of the children who sustained gunshot wounds were aged ten years and under. Child gunshot injuries increased to the second half of the first year by 507 per cent. The second full year showed a 491 per cent increase over the first. Gunshot injuries sustained by children aged ten years and under increased by 1,400 per cent in the second year. Nearly a quarter of the 159 child deaths recorded in the first two years of the intifada were a result of tear-gas exposure. Thousands of other children required medical treatment after exposure to gas.

Records were collected for 7,107 beaten children and this report estimates that 23,600 to 29,900 children required medical treatment for their beating injuries in the first two years of the intifada. According to a sample of the 3,460 records studied in the first year, nearly a third of the beaten children were aged ten years and under; one fifth of these young children were aged five and under. Over four fifths of the children requiring treatment

national and humanitarian law, but was found to provide soldiers with the opportunity for further punishment.

...The army has made various claims: it has rejected responsibility for the deaths of some children shot dead by soldiers; reported in many cases that soldiers were "forced" to open fire on children who were said to have endangered the soldiers' lives, while simultaneously insisting that soldiers are not permitted to shoot at children under any circumstances; claimed that children have been shot "by mistake" after having been thrust into the front line by adults and even parents; denied that tear-gas has killed children; and asserted that shot and beaten children are "exceptional" cases. These official accounts, which are compared with this report's research findings below and in the text, could not be substantiated. They contradict indisputable facts, such as the number and content of child medical records; are often seriously at variance with soldier accounts of both specific incidents and the prevailing atmosphere; are often implausible; and appear not to have been based upon inquiry. This raises the serious questions about the credibility of official reports."

Whose is the responsibility for permitting this horrendous distortion of history which has been going without serious attempt to diffuse the truth? Who is responsible for permitting the Israeli distortion of collective destruction of 470 Palestinian villages and towns as the "purity of Israeli arms"; the oppressive occupation as the "benign administration of the territories"; the characterisation of legitimate resistance to occupation, stipulated by the United Nations Charter, as terrorism? The call is not humane, nor is it an invitation for a peaceful and just settlement of the conflict; rather it is a call of irreconcilability, perpetuating wrongs and crimes, coming out of historical, tribal, and the exclusivity of excessive myths.

Abdul Jawad Saleh is the deported mayor of Al Birah. He also served in the PLO Executive Committee. He is a researcher and lecturer on topics related to Palestinian affairs. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

## In Moscow, a Mideast peace conference that worked

By Andrei Shumikhin and Steven L. Spiegel

LOS ANGELES — Imagine a Middle East peace conference in which tough proponents of the Arab and Israeli causes find themselves transformed by meetings with one another. What if they are soon enjoying cordial dinners and kissing each other on the cheek — developing ties they did not think were possible?

Picture a conference where a former radical Palestinian says at a closing dinner: "I have learned so much. I need to learn much more." And an Israeli rightist comments with tears in his eyes, "The Arabs and Israelis understand the Middle East, not you Americans and Soviets."

Well, this did not happen in Moscow, but it did occur in Moscow a week ago when Arab, Israeli, Western and Soviet experts met under the auspices of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation of the University of California and the U.S.-Canada Institute in Moscow to discuss Middle East initiatives.

We were the meeting's co-chairmen. There were no idealists at these sessions, which consisted of official negotiators but of scholars simulating peace talks. In Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli dialogues, the disagreements sounded like debates of government officials. But the chemistry worked and incredible events followed.

Because the Soviet and American sponsors were in complete

agreement, their cooperation was contagious for both Arabs and Israelis. The Arabs and Israelis were forced to communicate in ways impossible during the cold war, when it was tempting to play Washington and Moscow against each other.

The experts in Moscow agreed the new Arab-Israeli peace process should begin with a declaration of principles on procedures, covering matters such as the commitment to negotiate continuously and to deal in good faith. They stressed that once agreement was reached on procedures it could create a precedent for later accords, averting the need to start all over again.

Arab delegates argued in effect: "Don't insult us. Don't

just deal as Americans and Israelis always do with only technicalities or tactics."

To take advantage of the early positive atmosphere, participants were encouraged to take on difficult issues such as arms control, economic cooperation and negotiating procedures.

Then the shocks began. The Arabs and Israelis took a common approach on specific issues, and opposed the stands of the great powers.

For example, the Middle East participants argued that foreign aid was critical to the peace process and that economic reforms could not be pressed too strongly during the delicate adjustment period — positions at odds with the U.S., European and Soviet

view. Middle East players also voiced support for a moratorium on arms shipments and new arms sales to their region for the duration of the talks.

All participants agreed that talks could succeed only if difficult issues such as one-year weapons, the status of Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's role were deferred until agreements had been reached on other matters.

Are these meetings relevant to Madrid?

Yes, because they were attended by former generals and diplomats, well-placed academics and journalists with close ties to their governments. The Moscow sessions demonstrated that good faith, good cheer, good will and work on practical issues can make

a difference.

Most participants entered the Moscow meeting sceptical about the success of the Madrid conference. Yet despite continued disagreement, most left Moscow at least somewhat more optimistic.

An Arab admitted he had never previously understood the variety of Israeli views; he had always thought simply of one Israel.

An Israeli hard-liner commented: "This is a scary conference; the Arabs are so likeable."

Mr. Shumikhin is director of regional studies for the U.S.-Canada Institute in Moscow. Mr. Spiegel is professor of political science at the University of California, Los Angeles. They contributed this comment to the New York Times.



## Negotiators get jubilant welcome

(Continued from page 1)

pushed through photographers to hug her tearful mother when the bus stopped at a checkpoint.

"I'm overwhelmed, absolutely overwhelmed. It's a grand homecoming," said Dr. Ashrawi, who won praise for her eloquent presentation of the Palestinian cause in Madrid.

"After Madrid we have to start a new phase. We have to end the occupation and start looking at people as equal human beings," she said.

"In Madrid they wanted to impose conditions to make us appear as representatives of something less than a people," Mr. Hussein said in Jerusalem. "But we achieved the unity of the Palestinian people," he told the crowd.

The Palestinians attended the talks in a joint delegation with Jordan to circumvent Israel's refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The team which met the Israelis was led by Gaza doctor Haidar Abdul Shafi who was greeted by 5,000 supporters with olive branches when he returned to Gaza City.

Deputy Ghassan Al Khatib said he expected the next round, in which Israel will hold separate talks with Syria, Lebanon and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to take place from Nov. 20 to 25.

"Our formal position is that these talks should stay in Madrid but we are willing to discuss any other compromise if it fits with our position," he told reporters. Israel wants the talks to alternate between the Jewish state and Arab countries.

The United States favours Washington as a venue, but Dr. Ashrawi said on Saturday Palestinians would only agree if the United States improved relations with the PLO and gave them the chance to respond to the Jewish lobby and Congress.

"We are now preparing for the coming stage, our tactics and agenda are going to be declared at the right time and place," Mr. Khatib said. "We are preparing at the strategic political level and at the technical level."

## Kaddoumi

(Continued from page 1)

Progressive Front leadership "condemned Israel's attempts to obstruct the peace conference by manoeuvring and avoiding discussing the essential issues upon which the conference was held," one official said.

Syria wanted to discuss Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories at the face-to-face talks with Israel. Israel was interested in recognition through normal relations.

The meeting of the National Progressive Front Saturday night said the aim of Syria's position was to serve the interests of the Arab Nation.

The front is dominated by the Baath Party of President Hafez Al Assad.

Gulf diplomats said most Arab states will attend the multilateral stage of the Middle East peace negotiations with Israel that is widely expected to be boycotted by Syria.

"They are going with Syria or without her," one diplomat said. Damascus has told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, architect of the Madrid peace conference, it would not enter the regional talks unless Israel showed a willingness to withdraw from occupied Arab land, including Syria's Golan Heights.

The next negotiating phase is supposed to bring Israel together with other states in the region to discuss issues such as arms control, water resources and economic development and is viewed by Washington as an essential ingredient for peace.

## Chechens

(Continued from page 1)

sian president in the same powerless situation that faced Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in his attempts to solve ethnic conflicts.

In a related development, the Soviet jetliner hijacked Saturday by Chechen-Ingush men returned

to the region's capital, Grozny, after it was flown to Ankara, Turkey, to protest Mr. Yeltsin's decree.

All but one of the 171 passengers and crew were released unharmed, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. Authorities were investigating the incident, but the hijackers' exact whereabouts were not clear.

## Minister to review new tax

(Continued from page 1)

several other members of the 80-man Lower House of Parliament had extended moral support and pledged to raise the industrialists' complaint when Parliament convenes in December.

Sheikh Abu Zant, a fiery orator who linked the industrialists' grievances with the Western-led coalition's war against Iraq and the ongoing Middle East peace process, suggested that a committee be set up of industrialists and Parliament members to press the campaign against the consumer tax as well as other issues concerning Jordanian industries.

A representative group of the businessmen Saturday delivered a petition to Prime Minister Masri, outlining the problems caused by the new tax and collection system and urging him to reconsider the decision.

Even if there was no way out of the consumer tax, the industrialists are to continue to press their opposition to what one of them called a set of "draconian measures" by the government to collect the tax.

"How can we accept that a government employee controls life at our factory?" asked Abdul Karim Zalloum. According to the measures, a government employee will be stationed at the various industrial units whose production is covered under the

consumer tax. The official will carry one key to the factory, which will have a two-key lock, and ensure that no products leave the premises without the manufacturer paying the consumer tax.

Factories which produce non-taxable as well as taxable goods should separate the manufacturing units.

"In essence it means that if the government customs official is not well and cannot attend his duties then we have to stop work at the factory," said Mr. Zalloum. "If I would like to carry a packet of sweets home to my children then I have to account for it to the government employee. Isn't this ridiculous?" asked the businessman in summarising the sentiments of the 750 or so industrialists gathered Saturday.

Among other measures included in the collection system in a stipulation that the factory should provide a bank guarantee to the government that the due tax will be remitted to the treasury if any goods originally destined for exports are sold locally.

Mr. Jardaneh indicated that the government was also willing to discuss the entire issue. "The mechanism to collect the consumer tax can also be discussed," he said. "We will not do anything which is against the interests of Jordanian industries."

## New clinic in Deir Alla

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi toured a number of regions in the Irbid and Bani Kinaneh region and the northern Jordan Valley areas.

At the Deir Alla district town of Maiddi, the minister opened a health department and heard from the director of health services about the situation in the region, which is inhabited by 45,000 people.

Dr. Abbadi met the heads of local councils and local residents and discussed Health Ministry programmes. He said that the Maiddi comprehensive health centre will be transformed into a hospital in the coming few months.

Among the main problems facing the Health Ministry is to find reliable cadres of doctors, specialists and nurses.

## Ministry role in care for disabled examined

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the role of the Health Ministry in providing care for the disabled organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund's Special Education Section was held here Sunday.

Addressing the symposium, the Ministry of Health's secretary general, Adnan Abbas, said his ministry directs special attention to the handicapped and deals with them as full-fledged citizens who have the right to be looked after. Dr. Abbas said that the ministry focuses on the preventive aspect of disability for humanitarian consideration and seeks, through its various programmes, to prevent disabilities by the early detection of cases.

He called for streamlining all efforts in the areas of health, education and social services in order to provide the best services for the handicapped. He noted

that the ultimate goal the ministry seeks to achieve is to integrate the disabled into society and to ensure their active participation in the social and economic life of their communities.


Also addressing the symposium was director of the Early Disability Diagnosis Centre, Usama Badran, who reviewed the services provided by the Health Ministry. Dr. Badran noted in particular the performance of the national immunisation programme, saying that this programme has ensured 94 per cent immunization coverage against child diseases. He added that the ministry was considering a proposal for including the rubella (germa measles) vaccine in the national immunization programme.

Dr. Badran also said that the ministry had established 210

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres throughout Jordan, thus covering one third of the target group. He also said that the school health teams cover 97 per cent of school students throughout the country. He noted that these teams have detected 6,541 cases of disability.

The director of the Ministry's Health Insurance Department said that the ministry provides free medical insurance cards for every eligible family with an income of less than JD 600. The number of those covered by this scheme is 120,000. Dr. Khatib noted that the law on the disabled recommends that free medical insurance be provided to the severely handicapped.

He added that some disabled persons can work and earn their living and as much as are not entitled to get such free cards.



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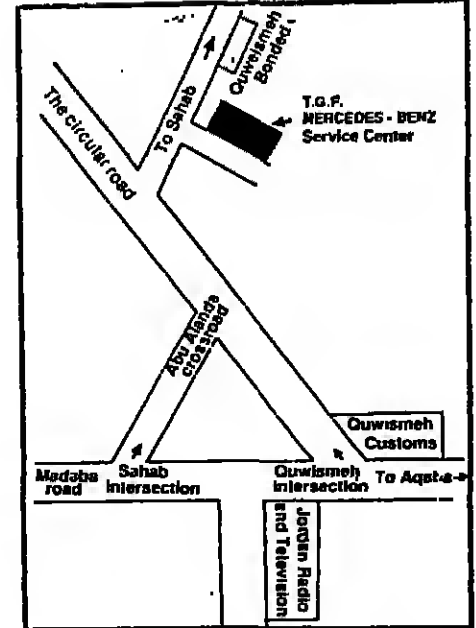
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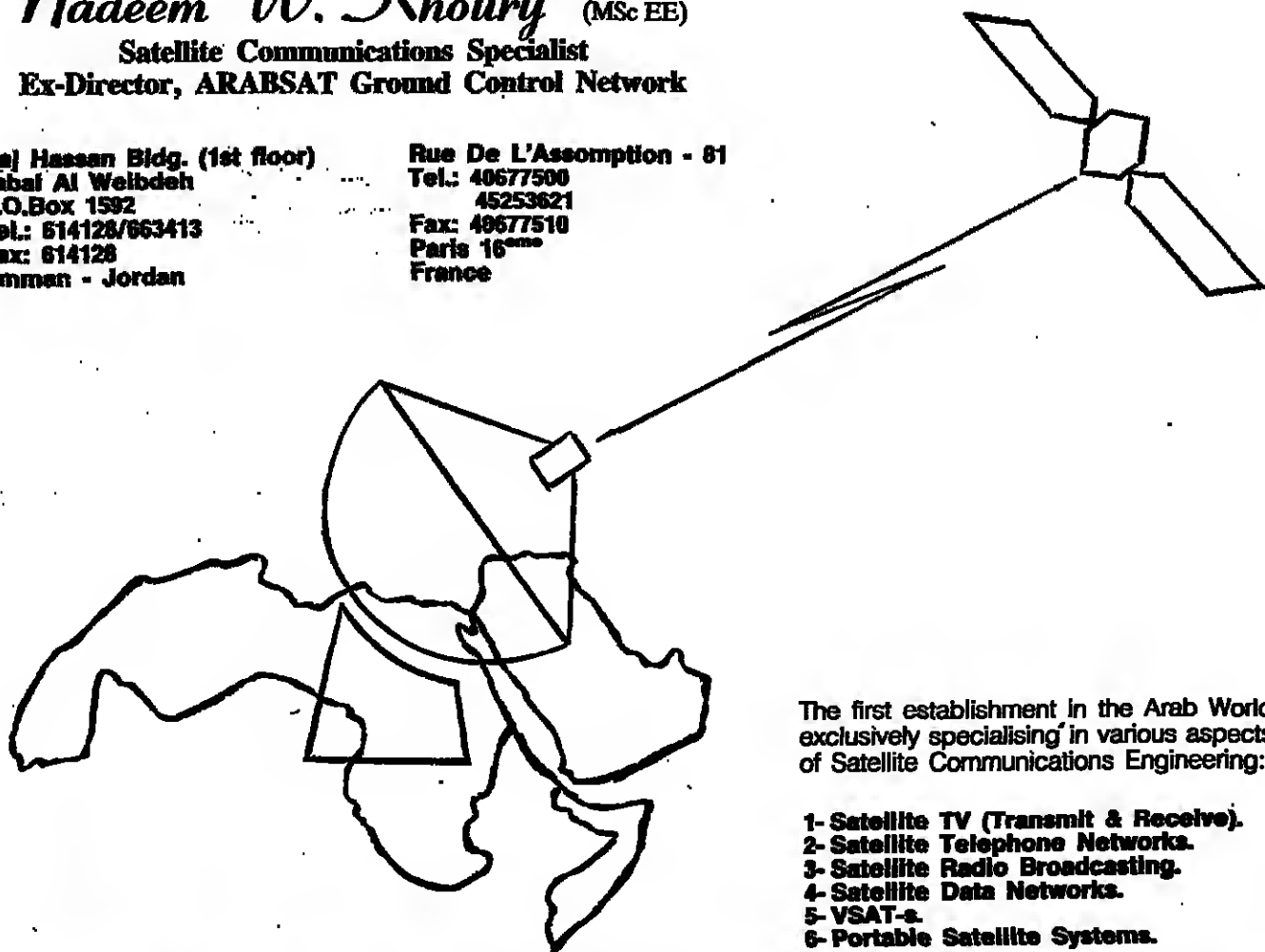
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## Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary  
(November 4 - November 8, 1991)

AMMAN — Trading remained subdued during most of last week's trading sessions. Dealers avoided establishing new positions in view of the prevailing negative dollar sentiment and lack of substantive news items. The widely anticipated Fed interest rate cut finally materialised, surprising markets in its timing but, nevertheless, leaving a muted impact on prices. The U.S. unit ended the week marginally higher against the major currencies.

The dollar dropped significantly Monday and Tuesday as bearish sentiment remained strong. Although it rallied briefly during Tuesday's trading hours on news that the USSR might face difficulty in repaying its Western debts, the U.S. currency soon retreated as negative sentiment overpowered safe haven buying. Expectations were unanimous on a dollar interest rate cut by Fed, but diverged on the timing issue. The dollar closed Monday at its lowest against the yen at 129.25 yen to the dollar.

Wednesday took the dollar to its lowest closing levels of the week against major European currencies, as the Fed announced a cut in its discount rate by 0.5% to 4.50% and the Federal Funds rate by 0.25% to 4.75%. Despite being factored into prices, the timing of the Fed's action came as a surprise, arousing suspicions that the Fed might be panicking over the state of the U.S. economy, hence accentuating an already negative sentiment. Major U.S. commercial banks followed suit and lowered their Prime rate by 0.5% to 7.5%. The dollar thus dropped briefly to 1.6280 marks, rebounded on short covering to reach 1.6443 marks, but then eased again to close at 1.6363 marks and 1.7755 dollars to the pound sterling.

Short covering boosted the U.S. unit at the end of the week, taking the dollar to its highest closing levels Friday. Observers maintained that technical considerations lay behind its rise as most traders waited for it to either break through resistance, or fall through support levels before establishing new positions. Trading, therefore, remained subdued as the U.S. currency breached neither resistance at 1.65 marks, nor support at 1.6250 marks to the dollar.

As for this week, market participants await the release of a number of U.S. economic reports to shed more light on the state of the U.S. economic recovery. While most observers are not optimistic about the results, expectations, however, point to range trading in bands of 1.6250-1.6500 marks, and 130.00-131.20 yen, as support at 1.6250 marks is expected to hold.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	11/11/91 Close	2/11/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7675	1.7647	(0.16%)
Deutsche Mark	1.6445	1.6465	(0.12%)
Swiss Franc	1.4435	1.4535	(0.69%)
French Franc	5.6235	5.6295	(0.11%)
Japanese Yen	129.75	130.38	(0.48%)

\* USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates\*

Currency	11/11/91 1-Month (%)	11/11/91 3-Month (%)	11/11/91 6-Month (%)	11/11/91 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.18	4.75	5.06
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.06	10.37	10.06
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.25	8.87	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.18	7.50	7.81
French Franc	8.93	9.18	9.18	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.21	5.65	6.25	5.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6860
Sterling Pound	1.2067	1.2127
Deutsche Mark	0.4152	0.4173
Swiss Franc	0.4708	0.4732
French Franc	0.1215	0.1221
Japanese Yen*	0.5250	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3685	0.3703
Swedish Krona	0.1137	0.1143
Italian Lira*	0.0552	0.0555
Belgian Franc	0.02015	0.02025

\* Per 100

U.N. oil embargo said  
to cost S.Africa heavily

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Overcoming the effects of a U.N. oil embargo against South Africa has cost that country between \$25 billion and \$30 billion during the last 12 years, according to a report by a U.N. monitoring group. The group called for the ban to be maintained, pending the adoption of a non-racial democratic constitution, saying: "premature lifting of the oil embargo would be counter-productive for the peaceful process in South Africa."

The 10-nation intergovernmental group to monitor the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa was set up by the U.N. General Assembly in 1986.

The assembly, whose resolutions are not mandatory, first called for an oil embargo in 1975 and strengthened it in subsequent years.

Brady backs still-lower  
U.S. interest rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has said that he favoured still lower interest rates to spur the sagging American economy.

"I think they can continue to come down," Mr. Brady said of interest rates on a television news programme after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, cut key short-term rates to levels not seen since the 1970s.

Mr. Brady indicated, however, that there was "some disagreement" on further rate cuts among senior economic advisers to President George Bush.

"Nobody can say for sure" which way the economy, the world's biggest, is heading now, he said. "But I think that lower interest rates, which would mean lower home (mortgage) payments for Americans and lower credit card charges, make sense to me."

Asked if he was confident the economy would avoid slipping back into the recession which took hold in July 1990, Mr. Brady said nobody ever knew for sure which way the economy was going "and nobody can say for sure now."

The government said last month the U.S. economy grew at a 2.4 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, technically ending a year of recession.

But subsequent reports on industrial production, housing starts and new car sales have indicated the recovery was faltering as of last month.

With the economy slowing and political pressure mounting going

into an election year, the central bank Wednesday lowered its trend-setting discount rate a half percentage point to 4.5 per cent, its lowest level in 18 years.

Mr. Brady hit out at congressional Democratic leaders for what he called "jawboning the economy down."

"I cannot understand why it is a function of leadership to try and remind the people in this country of the recession and Herbert Hoover," he said.

Last week Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine compared the economy with the hard times under Hoover, who was president during the Great Depression which followed the 1929 stock market collapse.

Governors of various states have said recently that the soaring costs of caring for the poor and building new prisons are slowing state spending for education and roads despite record tax increases.

State problems are made far worse by the lingering recession, which is shrinking tax collections, a report has said.

"It's not exactly a depression, but it seems to be worse than the normal kind of recession," said Raymond Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors' Association. "If we don't get some kind of recovery in the next several months, we are hurting."

Because governors are becoming increasingly reluctant to ask for tax increases, Mr. Scheppach

said, the states are likely to cut more deeply into spending and perhaps to impose new "user fees" for specific programmes.

The governors' report and a companion survey by the National Association of State Budget Officers offered this evidence:

— 30 states reported that tax collections in fiscal 1991, which ended on June 30 in most states, fell below estimates on which their budgets had been based. Twenty-nine states had to reconvene their legislatures to cut already enacted budgets by a cumulative \$7.5 billion.

— General-fund spending, which covers most major programmes, grew by 4 per cent in 1991, compared with an average of eight per cent per year in the 1980s.

— 31 states raised taxes totalling \$15 billion for the current fiscal year, more than one-third of the increase coming from sales taxes. Taxes were raised \$10.3 billion in 26 states in fiscal 1991.

— End-of-year budget balances, a sign of state economic health, dropped to their lowest point since 1983. The balances averaged 1.5 per cent of spending in 1991; 1.9 per cent is forecast for 1992, assuming economic recovery.

Even after the recession ends, Mr. Scheppach said, the costs of Medicaid — a federal-state programme of medical care for the poor — and penal systems are likely to continue their rapid growth. Those programmes now take almost 20 cents of every



Nicholas Brady

dollar spent by the states.

Medicaid spending is driven up by federal rules increasing eligibility for the programme, while spending for prison construction and other corrections projects often are mandated by the courts.

"The share of state spending dedicated to Medicaid has increased from 10.2 per cent to 13.6 per cent of state budgets during the last five years," Mr. Scheppach said. Costs of the programme have grown at least 20 per cent in each of the last two years. Medicaid has replaced higher education as the second largest state spending programme, behind elementary and secondary education.

As have other economic reports, the survey found the recession has hit hardest in the east. But as the period of no growth or slow growth continues, the report said, more states will fill the pinch.

"The bottom line is that 1992 is going to continue to be a very difficult year for states — perhaps the most difficult in the last decade," it concluded.

## Russia plans keeping some price controls

MOSCOW (R) — Russia plans to exempt some basic goods from price liberalisation and raise domestic oil prices only gradually to world market levels, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief economic adviser said Saturday.

Yegor Gaidar told a congress of Russian democrats that controls would be lifted on as many prices as possible. But he tried to allay concerns that poor people might be hit by inflation and industrial growth would be choked by high oil prices.

"We will have to regulate prices for oil and oil products," he said, adding that essential food items, transport, communications and housing costs would also be controlled.

Mr. Yeltsin announced sweeping price liberalisation plans as part of a major economic reform package outlined in a speech last month.

Mr. Gaidar said there was a wide disparity between Russian domestic oil prices and world market levels. "If we make a transition to world prices for oil and its by-products, it will lead to an immediate ten-fold or twelve-fold increase in the price," he said.

He said oil prices would be brought into line with international prices over a three-year period and an export tax would be levied during this period to make up some of the difference.

Bread, salt and milk prices would be among other goods to be controlled, Mr. Gaidar said. "That does not mean they (bread prices) will remain the same. They will go up in any case, because prices for bread are connected with prices for other products," he said.

Long queues have formed outside bread shops in Moscow and other cities in the past few days as a result of shortages and in anticipation of price rises.

The Russian economist said price liberalisation had to be accompanied by tax reforms. "And if this does not happen, we will enter a period of hyperinflation when no privatisation or structural reforms will help," he said.

Soviet inflation, fuelled by a vicious circle of wage and price increases, has been running at two or three per cent a week for much of this year and the annual rate could top 200 per cent, according to official figures.

Mr. Gaidar called for strict control of the money supply and spending and said the Russian parliament was preparing to introduce a value added tax as a way of supporting the republic's budget.

He opposed widespread indexation of salaries, which would drain state resources at a time of high inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision to free prices by the end of the year is certain to worsen the standard of living for most Russians, already juggling low salaries with escalating costs.

Russian consumers have been edging nearer a free market for years under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's administration. Each month, they face incremental price rises while the country slips further into economic chaos.

Liberalising prices will drastically reduce purchasing power, particularly among Russia's budding middle class, officials have said.

Mr. Yeltsin has warned that tough times lay ahead.

"We can't guarantee that everyone's standard of living will be protected," he said.

Food, basic consumer goods, transport and other items have been heavily subsidised for de-

cades in the Soviet Union.

Boris Piskunov, a liberal Soviet economist, said one positive aspect to freeing prices was that the cost of goods in private markets — virtually the only places to buy fruit, vegetables and meat — would fall.

He said the move would also increase output because producers, who have partially cut off supplies to the state in favour of selling to cooperatives and private enterprises, would once again have an incentive to sell to the government.

And this increase in supply would ultimately lower prices. Mr. Yeltsin painted a dark picture of an economy on the brink of collapse, with inflation at a critical level and 55 per cent of families living below the poverty line.

Prices in Moscow reflect the economic chaos that has gripped the country.

Sausage costs anything from eight to 40 roubles a kilogramme. A lemon can cost up to seven roubles and raisins sell for up to 14 roubles a kilogramme.

One dollar buys 1.70 roubles at the inflated commercial rate but is now fetching up to 50 roubles on the black market.

Consumers are forced to balance these prices against meagre wages. A language teacher at a Moscow university earns 350 roubles, while a dentist in a state clinic earns a mere 240.

Mr. Yeltsin did offer some hope for the lowest earners, which include teachers and doctors.

He said wages in these two professions would be increased one month before prices were freed. He also said social protection programmes would be developed to help the needy.

A Soviet minister has said the economy would shrink again in 1992 after contracting sharply this

year and forecasts ranged from a "relatively optimistic" five per cent slump to a "pessimistic" 14 per cent.

TASS news agency quoted First Deputy Economic Minister Alexander Troshin as saying the worst scenario was possible if quibbling over an economic cooperation agreement between the republics dragged on into the second quarter of 1992.

In that case, gross national product (GNP) would decline 14 per cent, after a projected 12 per cent fall in 1991, and unemployment could soar from three million to 25 million, according to the economics ministry's forecast.

It put next year's budget deficit at 500 billion roubles (\$55 billion at the inflated official rate) in this scenario.

Mr. Troshin said the "relatively optimistic" scenario, dependent on rapid agreement between the republics, would lead to a five per cent fall in GNP, four million jobs and a budget deficit of 389 billion roubles (\$665 billion).

This year's budget deficit was forecast at 240 billion roubles (\$410 billion).

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Sudanese pound  
hits all-time low  
on rumours of  
further devaluation

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese pound plunged to an all-time low against the dollar Sunday on rumours that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wanted a further devaluation.

Talks between the government and an IMF delegation began in Khartoum Saturday and are due to end Monday.

The U.S. dollar fetches 15 Sudanese pounds on the official market but the rate on the parallel "commercial investment market" rose to 80 pounds Sunday.

On the commercial market, where almost all importers obtain their hard currency, people with dollars in their bank accounts can sell them privately at the best rate on offer. It is legal as long as cash does not change hands.

The government has been pleading with businessmen to keep the rate on the commercial investment market at 60 pounds.

On Oct. 7 the Sudanese government devalued the pound by 70 per cent and removed subsidies on a number of commodities including sugar, which is much in demand in Sudan.

The IMF welcomed the measures but economists say it is now

seeking other steps, including a cut in government expenditure, an end to price controls and a further devaluation.

The government is likely to resist, arguing that the measures would further impoverish the Sudanese people, already among the poorest in the world.

But Sudan badly needs balance of payment support from the fund. An IMF agreement could also unlock credits from the international community.

The country owes more than \$13 billion, about \$2 billion of them in arrears to the fund itself.

The IMF has not given Sudan credit since 1984, when it declared Sudan ineligible for loans because of the arrears and the government's failure to adopt an acceptable reform package.

The fund declared Sudan bankrupt in 1986 and last year it opened the way for its expulsion by declaring it uncooperative.

The government is expected to argue that it cannot cut expenditure because of the war in the south, which is costing Khartoum more than 11 million pounds (\$730,000) a day. It says the war with the southern rebels was forced upon it.

Survey explodes  
Japanese work  
ethic as myth

SYDNEY (R) — A major survey of attitudes in Europe, the United States and Asia has found that Japanese workers feel the most dissatisfied with various aspects of employment, particularly their wages and working conditions.

It exploded the myth that Australians have a poor attitude to work and the Japanese the best, according to Australian Professor Riaz Hassan, who prepared the survey in association with the International Survey Research Corporation of Chicago.

Workers in Singapore and Australia tend to be more positive to their work environment than their counterparts in the United States, Britain, Germany and Japan.

Professor Hassan said the study was the largest employee survey of its kind.

It covered nearly 150,000 employees in the United States, 96,000 in Britain, 30,000 in Germany, 41,000 in Australia, 3,000 in Singapore and 1,000 in Japan.

"Over the past 10 years, the attitudes of employees in Singapore have become more positive and they are followed in this respect by Australian employees," Dr. Hassan, professor of sociology at South Australia's Flinders University, said.

"The attitudes of Japanese employees in the same period have become significantly less positive," he said in a statement released by Flinders University.

The Japanese survey, though the smallest, was based on a random sample and was sufficient to provide a safe comparison, Dr. Hassan said. This was backed up by other data.

Dr. Hassan, who presented his findings at a conference of Asia Pacific personnel directors in Kuala Lumpur last week, said 90 per cent of Singaporeans felt their jobs were secure as long as they performed well.

In contrast only 66 per cent of Americans and 64 per cent of British workers felt secure.

In response to the survey's questions on working conditions, Australian and Singaporean employees were more confident that their pay was fair compared to others.

"The U.K. and Japanese employees feel least satisfied about their pay, with two out of every three feeling they are underpaid for what they do or are not paid fairly compared to others in their company," he pointed out.

Workers in Singapore and Australia were more satisfied with the operating efficiency of their companies than their counterparts in Japan and the United States.

International Survey Research Corporation specialises in employee surveys for large national and multinational organisations and includes among its clients 650 companies in 45 countries.

Another survey shows that the Japanese are the world's thriftiest savers, with an average \$45,118 (6,063,900 yen) banked per head of population in 1990.

The dollar equivalent represented an increase of almost 10 per cent over 1989 but the survey noted that the value of the yen against the dollar had risen by seven per cent in the same period.

Switzerland ranked second with \$19,971 (25,762 Swiss francs) of savings per head in 1990, followed by Denmark with \$18,405 (106,381 crowns) per head.

Others in the list of the world's top 10 savers, covering bank account savings only and converted at exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1990, were:

Dollar Equivalent	National Currency
France \$17,630	90,542 French francs
West Germany \$17,042	25,392 Deutschmarks
Austria \$16,369	174,822 Austrian schillings
Norway \$15,196	89,808 Danish crowns
Belgium \$15,111	468,152 Belgian francs
Singapore \$14,492	25,216 Singapore dollars
Netherlands \$14,282	24,136 Dutch guilders

The International Savings Bank Institute which made the survey said deposits with nearly 2,800 member banks around the world totalled about \$3,500 billion.

In a number of industrialised countries member banks accounted for between one-quarter and one-half of total savings and term deposits of the banking sector as a whole, it added.

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## Yugoslav navy blasts Dubrovnik; Vukovar on the verge of collapse

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Yugoslav navy gunboats shelled the besieged Croatian port of Dubrovnik Sunday and federal troops intensified their assaults on strategic towns in the rebel republic.

Croatian radio said two people died in Dubrovnik, where a luxury hotel was hit. Twenty Croatian soldiers were killed Saturday in fighting which was continuing around Karlovac, only 50 kilometres south of Zagreb.

In eastern Croatia, defenders of the town of Vukovar on the Serbian border warned that it was on the brink of capture by the Serb-led federal army after an 11-week onslaught.

With Croatia's military situation deteriorating after four months of war and a third of its territory now controlled by the army and Serb guerrillas, the republic announced the imposition of press censorship.

It threatened jail terms of up to five years for journalists who revealed military secrets.

Croatian Information Minister Branko Salaj scorned a call by Serbia and its allies in the collective Yugoslav presidency for the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force between Croatia and the Serb minority in the republic.

He described the four-member rump presidency, set up in October after Croatia and Slovenia boycotted the body, as "a bunch of usurpers."

Some 2,500 Croats and an unknown number of federal troops and Serb guerrillas have died in fighting since Croatia declared its independence in June along with the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia.

Croatia's population of 4.5 million includes 600,000 ethnic Serbs who oppose independence. Reuter correspondent Andrej Gustinic reported from Dubrovnik that the port was heavily bombed for the third successive day after its Croatian defenders ignored a federal ultimatum to surrender.

Two gunboats pounded the cliff-top Belvedere Hotel and artillery shells rained within 100 metres of the historic old town.

Croatian authorities ordered a total mobilisation in Dubrovnik, where the army said it captured one of three hills held by Croatian militia. The hills command the port's defences.

Zagreb Radio reported that Milan Dedakovic, commander of the Croatian forces in Vukovar, had sent a bitter message to the government and warned that the town was on the verge of collapse.

He blamed Croatian leaders for failing to provide sufficient help and added: "If Vukovar falls, and if its population perishes in a massacre... the culprit should be sought first in Zagreb."

About 14,000 of the 50,000

residents of Vukovar are believed to be trapped in the town, where federal forces have fought their way to within a few hundred metres of the centre.

Serbia's proposal that U.N. troops should be sent to Croatia followed the imposition of economic sanctions on Yugoslavia by the European Community and the United States, who also intend to seek a U.N. oil embargo against the country.

The rump Yugoslav presidency warned that the civil war in Croatia could spread to other parts of the country and said U.N. troops could form a buffer between the warring sides.

Croatia said it would not allow a U.N. deployment along the current front lines, where the guerrillas and the army have seized territory.

Mr. Salaj said the force would have to be stationed on Croatian borders as they existed previously.

Croatian radio said 20 people were hurt in the Dubrovnik bombardment which began at dawn. It reported that 3,000 Yugoslav troops were also attacking the historic port which has been under heavy fire since Friday.

Eyewitnesses said the Libertas Hotel and houses around the Argentinia Hotel were hit during attacks on the port Saturday in which gunboats and warplanes also took part.

Many local residents have fled

the fighting which has so far spared Dubrovnik's historic old town.

Its Croatian defenders are defying a federal ultimatum to surrender and withdraw from strategic positions on three hills.

Zeeljko Sikic, president of the Dubrovnik City Council, said Croatian forces would not lay down their arms despite the intensity of the attacks by the Serb-led federal armed forces.

Federal forces ordered the Croats to withdraw from their three remaining strategic front-line positions, the hills of Srdj, Bosanka and Nuncijato. This would leave the city wide open to attack.

Sikic told reporters Saturday: "How could we withdraw? We would be fools to do so. We have told the army we adhere to the (latest) ceasefire and are not advancing."

Shelling Friday night knocked out the city's direct telephone and tele links with the outside world. In a separate development, the Serb minority in Bosnia-Herzegovina voted Saturday on whether to secede from the ethnically mixed republic they share with Muslims and Croats.

The Serbs were expected to approve secession, which would heighten ethnic tensions in the republic and in the crumbling Yugoslav Federation, which is already scarred by violence in separatist Croatia.



The historic port of Dubrovnik in Croatia is still spared from the bombardment by the Yugoslav army.

## U.S. may try to enlist Asian powers in talks with 2 Koreas

TOKYO (R) — The United States, building on positive trends in Asia, may try to bring the region's four major powers into reconciliation talks with North and South Korea, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

He said no concrete or detailed agreement had been reached but the proposal had gained new currency because of increased fear of nuclear proliferation and shared concerns about tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The official, who asked not to be named, was travelling with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in Tokyo Sunday for talks with the new Japanese government.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Baker will also meet with President George Bush's sudden postponement of a planned

visit and bracing for further pressures to open up its markets. Baker's visit, his first since 1989, took on heightened significance after Bush last week postponed an Asian tour set for late November to focus on domestic affairs.

Baker outlined U.S. thinking on North Korea in the new issue of the influential magazine Foreign Affairs.

He called the armed standoff on the Korean peninsula "one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints... the very real danger of nuclear proliferation (there)... is now the number one threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific community."

Other officials said North Korea would figure prominently in Baker's talks during a nine-day tour that will also take him to

China and South Korea. Communist North Korea, backed by China, and South Korea, a U.S. ally, have faced each other across a heavily militarised line since their war ended in 1953.

In recent years, however, the two Koreas have made tentative moves toward establishing new ties.

"As the North-South dialogue progresses, we will explore the possibilities for a forum for the two Koreas and the four major powers in North East Asia," Mr. Baker wrote.

A forum would support dialogue, help ease tensions, facilitate discussion of common security concerns and possibly guarantee accords negotiated between the two Koreas, he added.

## More bodies found as Aquino hands cheques to flood survivors

ORMOC, Philippines (R) — Military rescue teams were still digging out decomposing bodies from beneath mud and the debris of collapsed homes along two rivers in the ravaged port 560 kilometres south east of Manila, "Welcome to what is left of our city," Ormoc Mayor Victoria Locsin told Mrs. Aquino before she visited a father who had lost his wife and two children in the floods which made 120,000 people homeless across the central island of Leyte.

In a two-hour visit to the devastated coastal city of Ormoc, where relief officials said up to 7,000 people may have died, Mrs. Aquino tried to confront bereaved families and handed over food parcels to mothers with small babies who had lost their husbands.

"I came here to see what your needs are and to console with you," said Mrs. Aquino, speaking to around 300 survivors from the second floor balcony of the relief coordination centre in Ormoc.

Throughout the shattered city of 120,000 people, residents were trying to put their lives back together after tropical storm Thelma Tuesday unleashed 12-foot (three-metre) high floods that hurled people, homes and cars into the sea.

She was accompanied by five members of her cabinet and by the Japanese and United States ambassadors who have sent supplies of blankets, food, medicines, sleeping mats and clothing.

"It's the intensity of the tragedy that really strikes you," said U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner.

Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto, offering \$1 million in help, said Japan was also hit by several typhoons a year.

"Let us both stand against this horror of nature," he said in a brief speech.

Brigadier-General Romeo Zulueta, who is spearheading relief operations, said that the dead on the streets of Ormoc and the shorelines had now all been collected but more bodies were still being found at sea on islands as far as 40 kilometres away.

After initial complaints from survivors that relief supplies were not getting through, the city now appeared to be full of food, with stocks of rice and fruit on sale, and snack bars and roadside restaurants reopened for business.

Standing in the porch of his house in front of three coffins, 31-year-old Cornelio Bernaldes spoke of the huge floods which engulfed homes in a deadly torrent of mud, logs and cascading water within minutes.

To clapping from the crowd, Mrs. Aquino announced donations of 10,000 pesos (\$370) for each family which had lost a member. But most people intent on rebuilding their homes hardly noticed her presence.

Mrs. Aquino also distributed money to the provincial and local governments to rebuild bridges, restore electricity and water supplies.

## France mourns death of Yves Montand

PARIS (R) — France mourned the loss of Yves Montand, one of its smoothest singers, greatest actors and most committed political activists, who died suddenly of a heart attack Saturday at the age of 70.

Television channels interrupted prime-time viewing to run programmes on Montand's life, loves and political causes, spanning half a century of French history.

Montand was taken ill while making a film with French director Jean-Jacques Beineix in a Paris suburb and was rushed to a nearby hospital, French Radio said.

His body was to be taken to his home at Paris' Tranquil Place Dauphine on the central Ile de la Cite.

President Francois Mitterrand expressed his sorrow and sent condolences to Montand's family.

"I learned with great emotion of the sudden death of Yves Montand. With him, the voice of a great artist has been extinguished, and the talent of one of the greatest actors of our era disappears," Mr. Mitterrand said.

Brilliant in both comedy and drama, Montand worked with the world's top film directors, including Vincente Minelli, Jean-Luc Godard, Constantine Costa-Gavras and George Cukor.

But he was most loved for his smooth voice, flavoured with Mediterranean sensuality.

French radio stations interrupted regular programmes to play some of Montand's best-known songs, including romantic Les Feuilles Mortes (Autumn Leaves) and Les Gammes De Paris (The Utrichs Of Paris).

In some 40 films — French classics or Hollywood dramas — his roles ranged from adolescent lover to retired detective.

But his most memorable screen performances were in political films like Costa-Gavras' prize-winning film Z, about the death of a left-wing Greek leader in the era of the colonels, or in L'Aveu (The Confession), when he lost 12 kilograms (27 pounds) to play an imprisoned Czech leader accused of treason.

He and his first wife, the late actress Simone Signoret, provoked controversy with their outspoken left-wing views, agitating for political causes and flirting with communism in the 1950s and 1960s. Montand protested publicly against the headline Soviet coup attempt in August.

Montand and Signoret, married in 1951, were France's most adored couple until his affair with American actress Marilyn Monroe during the filming of Let's Make Love in 1960. Their marriage survived, but Signoret died of cancer in 1985.

Culture Minister Jack Lang said Saturday he was "shaken, pained and very moved" at Montand's death.

Montand leaves behind his second wife Carole Azuiz and their three-year-old son Valentin.

## U.N. troops, Japanese envoy arrive in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The first contingent of United Nations troops arrived Sunday in Cambodia to help keep the peace after nearly 10 years of bloody civil war.

Thirty-seven Australian soldiers, wearing blue U.N. berets and each armed with a dagger and a pistol, arrived aboard two C-130 transport planes loaded with tonnes of communications equipment.

Earlier in the day, Japan's new ambassador to Cambodia arrived in Phnom Penh as the first in a series of envoys from several major nations streaming back to lend support to peace efforts and reconstruction of this crippled nation.

The Australian soldiers will be joined by about 120 more troops from 22 other countries to observe the truce between the Cambodian government and three guerrilla groups.

"I wish you all success," Ataul Karim, head of what will be the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission ever, told the Australians at a brief welcoming ceremony on the tarmac of Phnom Penh's international airport.

The diplomatic invasion will continue Monday, when Charles Twining is to arrive as the charge d'affaires to a new U.S. embassy.

The United States closed its embassy in 1975 as the ultraradical Communist Khmer Rouge closed in on Phnom Penh and toppled the pro-American Lon Nol government.

Other U.N. troops will be deployed in small groups to monitor the ceasefire signed in Paris last month by the four warring factions. New Zealand troops, including two on Sunday's transport from Darwin, Australia, will teach Cambodians how to avoid the tens of thousands of land mines buried throughout the country.

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The Australians will be responsible for setting up a communications network linking the four factions, and between each faction and the United Nations.

"I'm very enthusiastic," said signaller Barclay Sedge. "It's an opportunity to do something worthwhile and put our training into practice."

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## Haughey routs rebels but is severely weakened

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister Charles Haughey routed party rebels Sunday in a confidence motion, but the bruising fight cost Ireland's great survivor a third of his deputies and his days in power could be numbered.

After a bitter 15-hour debate, the master escapologist bled up to his nickname Houdini by outmanoeuvring dissidents who wanted a secret ballot. He wooed the open roll-call vote of the ruling Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny) party 55-22.

Haughey, one of Europe's longest-serving leaders, has now survived four leadership challenges in a decade. He called the marathon battle "probably the longest and most intense meeting of all time."

After fighting off the mutineers headed by sacked Finance Minister Albert Reynolds, Mr. Haughey said: "I feel very happy with the outcome. First of all I am going to have a good night's sleep and then I am going to do all sorts of things."

Mr. Haughey, 66, fought a storming campaign to ensure he did not suffer the same fate as British leader Margaret Thatcher, toppled by party insiders in a "palace coup" last November.

MANAGUA (AP) — A bombing at the tomb of a revered Sandinista hero set off a rampage by his followers in which the leftist militants shot it out with former contra rebels in Managua and sacked city hall.

Former President Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista party, told a frenzied crowd that government rightists were "sowing discord, violence and instability" and warned that the violence could escalate.

"They are provoking a coup d'etat, introducing laws where they try to interpret the constitution of the republic," Mr. Ortega declared. "In the case of a coup d'etat, the people of Nicaragua would immediately rise up."

Mrs. Chamorro took office in April 1990, after a resounding victory over Ortega in a Democratic election. But her government has come under fire from the left for austerity measures aimed at reviving Nicaragua's moribund economy.

Saturday's was the biggest outbreak of violence in the week-old confrontation, which has arisen over such government campaigns as an effort to privatise state farming cooperatives established under Sandinista rule.

Mr. Ortega told the crowd "we have to organise ourselves more and better... and be ready" in the event the National assembly passes laws that run contrary to Sandinista interests.

The violence began about 2 a.m. (0800 GMT) Saturday when an explosion ripped away a corner of the mausoleum of Sandinista Front founder Carlos Fonse-

ca, who died while fighting dictatorial Anastasio Somoza forces in 1976.

It came just hours after the Sandinista Front had finished commemorating the 15th anniversary of Fonseca's death with a gathering of thousands of sympathisers at the tomb.

Sandinistas blamed right-wing Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman, partly because of recent bitter feuding between him and Mr. Ortega. But Vice President Virgilio Godoy blamed Mr. Ortega, implying it was an excuse to engage in violence.

"The Sandinistas have the money and the bombs to do it," he told a pro-government radio station.

Speaking to a crowd of several thousands at the Plaza of the Revolution, Mr. Ortega accused Mr. Godoy, Mr. Aleman and National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar of creating instability by bringing back Mr. Somoza's right-wing, anti-Sandinista attitudes. Mr. Somoza was ousted in 1979.

Interior Minister Carlos Hurtado said in a brief broadcast that security for government officials and legislators was increased. He asked the Sandinista People's Army to help patrol the streets of Managua.

Mr. Hurtado also said police were setting up roadblocks throughout the city to search cars for weapons.

More than 18 months after Mrs. Chamorro became president of Nicaragua, her government remains locked in conflict with

the Sandinistas, whose 10-year rule was characterised by class conflict, economic decline and war with the U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

In Matagalpa, 130 kilometres northeast of Managua, two government supporters were dragged out of their cars and beaten by Sandinista crowds who erected barricades and set fires afire.

The United Nations said men in military uniforms fired AK-47s and threw a grenade at a U.N. vehicle in Esteb, 160 kilometres north of Managua, early Saturday.

The brief statement, faxed to the AP office in Managua, did not mention injuries.

A group of about 20 armed men destroyed Radio La Corporacion which is owned by Sandinista opponents and is known for its right-wing views.

Manager Justo Rufin Meneses said in a telephone interview the attackers ordered the seven staffers present to leave. "Then they gunned the equipment and destroyed it," he said.

It was the second time in a year that Sandinistas destroyed Radio La Corporacion.

Masked Sandinistas also broke into Radio Dario, a station in Leon 80 kilometres northwest of Managua, and sprayed the equipment with gunfire, station owner Juan Jose Teruno told the government station Radio Nicaragua. Nobody was injured.

Earlier in the day, a 10-minute shootout broke out when two large truckloads of Sandinistas arrived at the contra headquar-

ters on the main avenue in one of Managua's better neighbourhoods.

An AP photographer at the scene said the Sandinistas were using rocket-launched grenades and AK-47 rifles, and that AK-47 fire was returned from the building's second-story windows.

A vehicle belonging to the Organisation of American States mission in Nicaragua, parked in front, was destroyed by a grenade.

"They are our enemies and they will continue. We expect them back," said Pedro Lopez, who said he worked in the contra office's Planning Department.

About 3 kilometres from the contra building, some 25 Sandinistas kicked and shot their way into city hall. They torched and looted offices. Dozens of residents of poor neighbourhoods joined in the looting.

"I'm going to use this as a division in my house," said a 70-year-old woman who identified herself as Rina. She carried a plastic and metal partition.

Looters smashed computers and typewriters on the pavement outside, while others walked away carrying desks, chairs and file cabinets on their heads.

Firefighters were chased away at gunpoint, and the Sandinistas controlled police were nowhere to be seen at the city hall building or the contra offices.

In a parking lot behind city hall, looters smashed car windows and set two afire. They stood around the engine of a red Toyota and picked out parts.

## CANINE CONVENTION CALLED OFF BECAUSE JOHN MAJOR'S SICK

LONDON (R) — It's a dog's life for John Major, named after Britain's prime minister by pranksters who have set up the country's first political party for dogs. Organisers of the Raving Loony Staffordshire Bull Terrier Party said they had to postpone the inaugural gathering because canine leader John Major had fox mange.

With the party's first gathering called off because of fox mange, the party's first gathering was postponed.

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